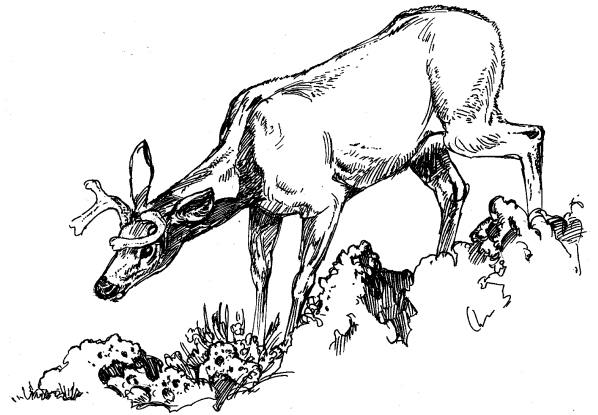


# Craters of the Moon

National Monument  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Wildlife Checklist



At first glance, Craters of the Moon seems a lifeless place. The young lava flows and cinder cones are indeed inhospitable. During summer as little as one inch of rain may fall. This moisture drains quickly into the porous rock and out of reach of animals. Air temperatures soar into the 90's and the lava surface may reach over 150° F. Drying winds of over 20 miles per hour are common in summer.

Despite the harsh conditions, many creatures eke out a living here. Animals escape the summer heat in different ways. Most, like the mountain lion, venture forth in search of food only at night. Others, like the pika, are active at dusk and dawn. Those that are out during the day often seek shelter in the hottest hours. Marmots take more extreme measures to escape heat. They enter a hibernation-like state called estivation, during which their metabolism and body temperature drop. They estivate until cooler, moister conditions return.

Since there are no streams and few water holes in the lava fields, animals must get the moisture they need directly from their food. Mule deer munch bitterbrush leaves. Violet-green swallows snatch insects from the air. Rattlesnakes inject their venom and swallow their prey, such as chipmunks, whole. Each of these foods contains water essential to life.

The following list should assist you in identifying the animals you see during your visit. Even if you do not see animals, be alert to evidence of their presence: tracks, trails, nests, burrows, gnawed cones and twigs, fur, feathers, bones, droppings, calls, and smells.

All animals have been classified in one of two categories:

- I: Quite common at some time during the year and may include resident, migrant, or breeding animals.
- II: Has been observed within the monument only infrequently. Sightings of these animals should be reported at the visitor center.

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**Reptiles and  
Amphibians**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gopher Snake – I                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sagebrush Lizard – II     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber Boa – I                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Horned Lizard – II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Rattlesnake – II          | <input type="checkbox"/> Short-Horned Lizard – II  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Garter Snake – II         | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Skink – I         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Yellow-Bellied Racer – II | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Toad - II         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-nosed Leopard Lizard – II    | <input type="checkbox"/> Boreal Chorus Frog – II   |

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**Mammals**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dusky Shrew – II                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Harvest Mouse – II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vagrant Shrew – II                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer Mouse – I             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merriam's Shrew – II               | <input type="checkbox"/> Bushy-tailed Woodrat – I   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Brown Myotis – I            | <input type="checkbox"/> Montane Vole – I           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-eared Myotis – II             | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-tailed Vole – II      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-legged Myotis – II            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sagebrush Vole – II        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small-footed Myotis – II           | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Jumping Mouse – II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fringed Myotis – II                | <input type="checkbox"/> Muskrat – II               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Myotis – II             | <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver – II                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Big Brown Bat – II                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Porcupine – II             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hoary Bat – II                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote – I                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Townsend's Big-eared Bat – II      | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Fox – I                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pika – I                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Kit Fox – II               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pygmy Rabbit – I                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Bear – II            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Cottontail – II           | <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon – II               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoe Hare – II                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Short-tailed Weasel – II   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed Jackrabbit – I        | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-tailed Weasel – I     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-tailed Jackrabbit – II       | <input type="checkbox"/> Badger – I                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Least Chipmunk – II                | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Spotted Skunk – II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-pine Chipmunk – I           | <input type="checkbox"/> Striped Skunk – II         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Marmot – I          | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Lion – II         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbian Ground Squirrel – II     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bobcat – II                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Basin Ground Squirrel – II   | <input type="checkbox"/> Elk – II                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel – I | <input type="checkbox"/> Mule Deer – I              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Squirrel – I                   | <input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed Deer – II     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pocket Gopher – II        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pronghorn – I              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Basin Pocket Mouse – I       | <input type="checkbox"/> Moose - II                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ord's Kangaroo Rat – II            |   |